New-England's PRESENT SUFFERINGS UNDER Their Cruel Neighbouring INDIANS.

REPRESENTED

In two LETTERS, lately Written from BOSTON to LONDON.

London, Printed in the Year 1675.

UMI

New-England's

PRESENT

SUFFERINGS,

UNDER

Their Cruel Neighbouring

INDIANS.

REPRESENTED

In two LETTERS, lately Written
from BOSTON to LONDON.

London, Printed in the Year 1675.

New-England's present sufferings, &c.

Boston, the 4th of the 3d Month, 1676.

My Friend,

After my Love to thee and thy wife, and the rest of our beloved Friends in the Truth, in which [illegible] we are a Flock, and one of the Families of Love, the Houshold and Children of the living God, in whom he will be glorified, in carrying of his Lambs and Babes in the Arms and Arck of his everlasting power, over all the swelling and raging waves of the World, both stormy and [illegible] to the joy of all his Faithful, and to the Glory and Exaltation of his holy Name, who ever is and was, and Earth and Time [illegible] where it is hid, for ever and ever, Amen.

Dear Friend,

Coming to Town, and hearing of [illegible] (that by thou hast sent to me) who being just ready to Sail for could not omit to write these few lines unto thee; But my busi[illegible] to do at this time was to build up something [illegible] be forgotten) Friend Groves, whom the Apostate [illegible] and hanged on a Tree, and buryed near the [illegible] Way; and Lord laying it into my heart, that [illegible] and seasonable time, it being a day of great Calamity [illegible] on most parts of New-England. For the Natives [illegible] wounded and destroying the Land, breaking in [illegible] Friends or Families, burning of Houses, [illegible] of Towns, and like reports they [illegible] Strides, by the under Jaw until Death, leaving some [illegible]

[illegible] some they carry away it is not known whither, but it is thought to Torture them after the most [illegible] manner; [illegible] are great rallies in Pursuit of them, [illegible] (as a Scourge in the hand of the Lord) goe on with great subtilty and success, upbraiding and challenging the *English* Warriors when they see them, and saying, *Come, why do ye not fight?* So that in a little time they have much surprized and made great slaughter upon the *English*, and although they had great store of Ammunition of their own, yet they get much more by Killing of them & Slaughtering of Souldiers out of the Thickets and Swamps, as they March and Travel along the Woods. They lately met with a Captain and his Company as they were passing over a Swamp; and at one Volley of Shot slew him, and neer all his Company. The *Indians*, I hear, insult very much, and tell the *English* Warriers that God is against them, and for the *Indians*; and that the *English* shall (for their Unrighteousness) fall into their hands. Our Rulers, Officers, and Councellors are like as men in a maze, not knowing what to do: but the Priests spur them on, telling them the *Indians* are ordained for destruction; bidding them go forth to Warr, and they will Fast and Pray at home in the mean time: yet their General, with some other Officers, complain and say, with tears, They see not God go along with them. And many of the *English*, when the Natives have killed them, they strip them naked, and leave their bodies to rot upon the ground. I heard some of the *Indians* did say to some *English*-men, That they did not think the *Quakers* would come out against them: I have not yet heard of much hurt that have done to Friends, but it is likely to be a time of great tryal to all here.

What I had to get upon our Friends Graves being ready framed a-[illegible] I got two Friends to help me, set it up in the night, a Court of Guard being kept very near; but it being pretty dark, we did our work without interruption; the next day, pretty early, tiding was brought into Town, that there was a Tombe built upon the two Quakers Graves by the Gallows; and it being a Market day, it is said, many of the Town and Country flock'd about it, Reading, taking, [illegible] of the Inscription which was Engraven upon the Tomb and the Work. And much people were seriously affected, saying one to another, that the suffering of these good people, is that which hath brought the Displeasure and Judgment of the Lord upon the Country. But the Priests and Rulers, it being General Court [illegible] of the great Concourse of people which gathered about

about it, in the evening, being the laſt day of the week, they ſent ſome to pull it in pieces, and to bring the Table, with the Inſcription, to the Governour, and General Court. When it was Demoliſhed, divers people, who afterwards came from divers Towns to ſee it, loſt their labour. [illegible] hath proved very good ſervice, and to the torment of the blood-[illegible]; and it riſeth in the hearts of many people [illegible]. So, my Dear Friend, with true Love, I Reſt,

Your Friend,

W. E.

A Copy of the Inſcription.

Though here our Innocent Bodyes

in ſilent Earth do lie,

Yet are our Righteous Souls at Reſt,

our Blood for Vengance cry.

Boston, the 10th of the 8th Month, 1675.

My well beloved Friend,

AFter the remembrance of true Love to thee, and the rest of dear Friends, &c. This may inform thee, that a most bitter Spirit is entred both *English*, and *Indians*; in which they greatly endeavour the utter destruction one of another: so that the Face of the state and condition of this Country, to all that see, seems very sad, and doleſome; and the fearful day of Gods most righteous Judgements according to his unchangeable Word, spoken by his faithful Servants, and Prophets, seems now, like a mighty and terrible one, to come upon this wicked, and adulterated Place, and People; and although they do fall, and slay often, yet still Hands in them, fast rooted, the evil Tree, and they still delight to unite with the Fift of wickedness, even all them who faithfully reprove Iniquity in the Gate; and their evil hearts are much hardned So that, although Plagues, and Perplexities come in upon them, like an overflowing Stream, yet their wise Counsellors feed themselves fat, without fear, as for the day of slaughter, whilst many of the miserable Inhabitants lye dead, wallowing in their blood, and dying; and whilst the Barbarous enraged Natives, from one part of the Country, to another, are on Fire, flaming forth their fury, spoiling Cattle and Corn, and burning Houses, and torturing Men, Women, and Children; and burning them alive? Yesterday came news to mine Ear, that a few Miles off, the *Indians* came to a House, and catch'd a Child of half a Year old, from its Mother, and another about ten Years old; both which they carried to the other side of a Brook, where they made a Fire; and in sight of the tender Mother, they took up the youngest by one Leg, and held it aloft, and said, see you, *English* Woman, (or to that purpose) and so threw it into the Fire, and burnt it; and so it's supposed, they destroyed the other also. I this day heard of one whom they were three days torturing to death; so it plainly appears *New-England* unparallel'd day is now come upon themselves. Divers of the Priests (I heard) lately gathered together to consider what might be

be the cause that the Hand of the Lord is thus stretched forth against them; and one of them said, there seems to be a Check between the Lord and our Prayers, and the Lord goes not forth with our Forces: but on the very days that we Fast, and Pray before the Lord, do our Enemies give us the greatest overthrows; and the last time we Fasted, we had the greatest slaughter; and others confessed that the greatest cause might be in the Priests, but they would not agree to that: So *Babylon* was, and is divided. One of these Priests, on a Fast day, took his Text out of the 44th Psalm, beginning at the 9th. Verse, and read to the 14th. but Preached on the 9th. *But thou hast cast us off, and put us to shame; and goest not forth with our Armies.* Verse 10. *Thou makest us to turn back from the Enemy; and they which hate us, spoil for themselves.* Verse 11. *Thou hast given us like sheep appointed for meat, and hast scattered us among the Heathen.* Verse 12. *Thou sellest thy People for nought, and dost not increase thy Wealth by their Price.* Verse 13. *Thou makest us a reproach to our Neighbours, a scorn, and a Derision to them that are round about us.*

The *Indians* Insult very much over our *English* Forces, Challenging them out to fight: you say, say they, you will kill all the *Indians*, why come you not forth to fight? Sometimes they watch the *English*, and will not suffer them to bury their dead, but force them to flee before them: and then return, and strip the dead naked, and leave their Bodies to rot above ground: now these things are come to pass, as was foretold by our Friends, the Servants of the Lord. A few days since, a Man, who had gotten one of *George Bishop*'s Books of Friends sufferings in *New-England*, and reading a saying there, wherein he testified the days should shortly come, that great Calamities should come upon that People; and that their Young Men should fall by the Sword, and Worms shall cover them; and the Cup which they had filled to others, should be filled double to themselves: This Man being prest'd in Spirit, went to the General Court, then sitting, with *George Bishop*'s Book in his hand; and came several Miles out of the Country: he told them he could not have rest in his mind, until he came to shew them that Book; and he delivered it to them, bidding them read such a place, and consider if he was not a true Prophet from the Lord, in what he had foretold; and whether it was not now come to pass: But they frowned hard upon him, and examined him if he went to the Publique Worship, or nay, whereupon he demanded his Book again, but went away without it. Some of the Priests do endeavour to charm the minds of the People, and to perswade them that the

cause of these distresses, fears and horrors, that is come upon them, in their Lands now, and times up, is for that the Magistrates do suffer the Quakers, and other Heretiques to live amongst them; but others of them, (and those the Religious) say, that the great cause of God's displeasure against them, is the guilt of innocent Blood, which from time to time, hath been shed in the Land; and further said, that although the Lord had this Year taken away the Plague of Blasting the Wheat in the Field, yet a greater Plague hath he brought in its room; and if that it doth continue, greater Plagues than these are like to fall for the next Year, even Pestilence, and Famine, with the Sword. Great is the Policy, and Wisdome the Natives do Act with (that is) for they compass the out-sides, and weakest Towns in the Country, and gather the People, and drive of them in heaps, like Fishes before a Net and make them fly before them to the strongest Towns for Refuge: and say, they will drive them down to Boston, and to two or three more of their strongest Towns, where they, for want, shall starve, and famish one another, and at present (if the Lord shew not mercy) they seem, as if they would destroy, and root up the rest of our Nation, as a troublesome, and monstrous Cloth, and cast it out of their Land, but I shall fear every one that fears, and follows the Lord with an upright heart, for such he will make as a Wall of Brass, and he will be their deliverer, and their strong Tower, henceforth and for ever more. Sir, My friend in my absence, in that which changeth not,

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]